

MARYLAND CIVIL WAR TRAILS

1864 ATTACK ON WASHINGTON ★★★ THE LAST INVASION



The Final Stand, by Keith Rocco. Courtesy Monocacy National Battlefield.

The Final Stand, by Keith Rocco.
Courtesy Monocacy National Battlefield.

How to Use this Map-Guide

This guide presents a scenic driving tour that follows the route of Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early's July 1864 invasion of Maryland and attack on Washington, D.C. It also follows the routes of Gen. Bradley T. Johnson and Maj. Harry Gilmor, whom Early ordered to move toward Baltimore to cut railroad and telegraph communications, and then to march south to free Confederate prisoners of war at Point Lookout.

Follow the bugle trailblazer signs to wayside pull-offs that tell not only the stories of the bold Confederates who conducted the last invasion of the North during the Civil War and attempted to attack the nation's capital, but also of the brave Federal soldiers who thwarted their efforts. Uncover the stories behind the fateful Battles of Monocacy and Fort Stevens.

Along the way, explore the scenery while paddling a waterway or while hiking or biking a trail, and experience nature and our nation's Civil War heritage up close. Parks, trails, historic sites, and museums offer an in-depth look of the war on the home front, in the heat of battle, and beyond the battlefield. Take a break in nearby Civil War-era cities and towns for dining, lodging, shopping, and attractions.

For additional Trails information, visit www.civilwartrails.org and www.visitmaryland.org. And download the Maryland Civil War Trails app from Apple or Google Play for more Civil War history and fun things to see and do along the way.



Civil War-era cannons at Fort Stevens, Washington, D.C.



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THE LAST INVASION



Gen. Jubal A. Early



Gen. Lew Wallace



Maj. Harry Gilmer

The last major Confederate invasion of the North originated during the spring campaign of May 1864, when Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, commander in chief of all Federal armies, ordered simultaneous attacks against Confederate forces throughout the South. In Virginia, he accompanied Gen. George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac toward Richmond, while Gen. Benjamin F. Butler led the Army of the James toward Petersburg and Gen. David Hunter marched south in the Shenandoah Valley. To divert Union forces from Richmond and keep it out of Federal hands, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee later ordered the attack on Washington.

Grant's strategy challenged Lee's ability to defend not only Richmond but also the Shenandoah Valley, an avenue of invasion that offered the Federals a "back door" to Richmond and the Confederates a concealed approach to the North and Washington, D.C. In May 1864, it seemed, the Valley offered Grant the advantage that Lee had seized in 1862 and 1863. In June, however,

Lee dispatched Gen. Jubal A. Early and his corps to Lynchburg, where Early repulsed Hunter and drove him into West Virginia.

On June 23, Early turned north, marched down the Valley, and invaded Maryland to threaten Washington, D.C., draw Union troops from Richmond and Petersburg, and release Confederate prisoners held at Point Lookout. On July 9, Early sent Gen. Bradley T. Johnson's cavalry brigade to free the prisoners. Johnson dispatched Maj. Harry Gilmer's regiment to raid near Baltimore. Union Gen. Lew Wallace delayed Early at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, in what became known as "The Battle that Saved Washington." Meanwhile, Federal troops from Petersburg strengthened the capital's defenses. Early probed the lines there near Fort Stevens on July 11–12 and then withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley, where he stopped the pursuing Federals at Cool Spring on July 17–18. Despite failing to free prisoners or take Washington, D.C., Early's invasion succeeded in diverting Federal resources from Richmond and kept it temporarily in Confederate hands.

THE BATTLE THAT SAVED WASHINGTON

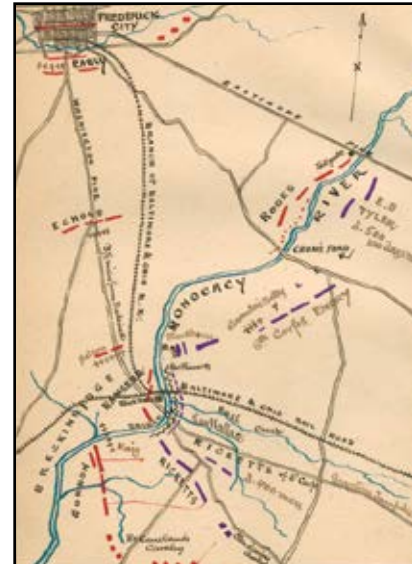
Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early and his 15,000-man army arrived at Monocacy Junction on July 9, 1864. To divert Union forces away from Richmond, Virginia, Early was executing Gen. Robert E. Lee's orders to attack and if possible seize the United States capital, Washington, D.C. At the junction, Early faced 6,600 Union soldiers commanded by Gen. Lew Wallace, who was determined to hold his position and give time for reinforcements to reach the capital. Wallace had positioned his men across the Georgetown Turnpike, the main road to Washington.

Cannon fire broke the morning stillness as Confederate skirmishers, facing what they thought were inexperienced troops, tried to secure the bridges over the Monocacy River. Wallace's men offered stiff resistance. As the fight continued, Confederate cavalry tried to secure a river crossing and seize the turnpike bridge. They dismounted and attacked across the Thomas Farm, but a concealed line of veterans forced them back to the Worthington Farm.

A second dismounted attack was launched a few hours later. This time the troopers swept around the Union left flank, forcing the Federals back as the Confederates occupied the Thomas House. Success was short lived. When the veteran infantry counterattacked and drove the cavalrymen back a second time, Early sent infantrymen across the river to renew the assault.

It was midafternoon when Confederate infantry attacked Wallace's line. When they hit the Union center, the defenders cracked and retreated back to the Georgetown Turnpike, a sunken road. The Confederates had driven the Union soldiers into a great defensive position. Failing to dislodge them from the turnpike, the final Confederate brigade

The Final Stand, by Keith Rocco



Plan of the Battle of Monocacy

attacked the Union right flank. The Federals pulled away from the river, leaving a gap that the Confederates exploited.

With Early's men able to fire down the Union line, Wallace ordered a retreat. The men at the junction fell back across the railroad bridge and made their way to safety. The battle was over and Early had given the Confederacy its only undisputed victory in Union territory. Wallace's defense, however, had bought time, and reinforcements arrived at the capital before Early could attack.



CIVILIANS



Glen Worthington watching the Battle of Monocacy from the family cellar. Art by Keith Rocco.

Glenn H. Worthington (1858–1934) experienced the horrors of combat when part of the Battle of Monocacy was fought on his family's farm. The Worthingtons huddled in their basement, where six-year-old Glenn watched the fighting through gaps in boarded-up windows. Confederate forces turned his home into a field hospital, and Glenn helped his parents care for the wounded of both armies. As he explored the battlefield, Glenn found a pile of burning rifles and bayonets, and used a stick to pull a bayonet out. Unfortunately, as he stooped over, a coal touched a paper cartridge that exploded, burning his face and threatening his vision. He retained his sight, however, and recovered fully by the end of the year. Never forgetting the events of that July day, Worthington wrote the first book on the battle, *Fighting for Time*, published in Baltimore in 1932. He also helped establish Monocacy National Military Park in 1934 to preserve the battlefield.



LINCOLN AT FORT STEVENS



After the Battle of Monocacy, Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early marched south toward Washington, D.C., 35 miles away. He headed toward Fort Stevens, one of the 68 forts around the capital, where President Abraham Lincoln soon witnessed the action. The summer heat, however, affected Early's men mentally and physically, and about half of them lagged behind. Early and his vanguard arrived near Fort Stevens at noon on July 11, but the faltering soldiers made him delay the attack until the next morning.

Alarm spread through Washington. Union reinforcements began arriving from Petersburg, Virginia, by steamship on the afternoon of July 11. Lincoln greeted them and later watched the combat from the Fort Stevens ramparts. Confederate sharpshooters had Lincoln under fire, and one of his group was shot! The President got out of harm's way. The reinforced defenses impelled Early to withdraw. He retreated under cover of darkness on the morning of July 12, ending his threat to the capital.

Lincoln at Fort Stevens



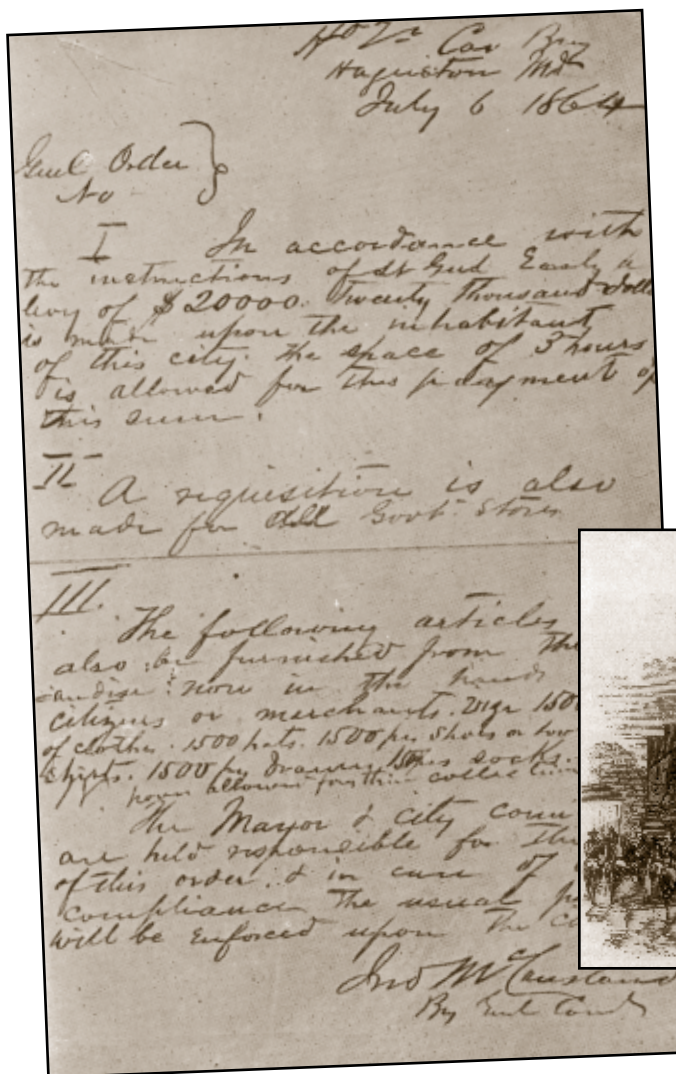


RANSOMS



Union Gen. David Hunter's "scorched earth" campaign in the Shenandoah Valley in May–June 1864 prompted Confederate retaliation. During Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early's 1864 invasion, his men looted stores, burned barns, and "requisitioned" horses. Occasional bloody firefights erupted with civilians. Early introduced a new tactic—ransom—to force a town to "contribute" money and supplies under threat of being put to the torch. Hagerstown, Middletown, and Frederick met his demands for cash, clothing, and food. Ransoms of Westminster and Hancock mostly fizzled before the

Confederates collected the goods. Only Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, suffered "the torch," on July 30, when leaders refused to meet Gen. John McCausland's demands. The arson backfired, as shouts of "Remember Chambersburg" inspired Union soldiers in the field. The effect on Chambersburg was lasting, however, as it took years to rebuild. Hagerstown and Frederick levied special taxes on residents for decades to repay the banks that had lent money. The ransoms have become legendary in the towns where they occurred.



The ransom note received by Hagerstown officials, as it appeared in a 1907 history of the Hagerstown Bank. The original has since disappeared.



While officers demanded and arranged to receive Hagerstown's ransom, troops sacked the Union army supply depot on Walnut Street. This image of the event appeared in *Harpers Weekly* on July 30.

PERSONALITIES

Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early and Union Gen. Lew Wallace, the commanders who squared off in the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, followed similarly complicated paths in life and war. Both men enjoyed comfortable upbringings before the war and had successful postwar literary careers. In other ways, they were very different.

Early was famous for his temper, profanity, and aggressiveness in combat. Gen. Robert E. Lee called him “my bad old man.” In contrast, Wallace had a diplomatic temperament and a strong Christian ethic. With the Battle of Monocacy, Early earned the only Confederate victory on Union soil during the campaign but failed to capture Washington, D.C., or free Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout. Wallace’s defeat, which at first cost him his command, was soon seen as “The Battle that Saved Washington” and helped redeem his reputation.

After the war, armed with pens instead of swords, both men (trained as lawyers) spent the balance of their lives attempting to justify their wartime actions, and restored their military reputations to a large degree in the court of public opinion. Wallace, who received Ulysses S. Grant’s endorsement for his military service, achieved lasting fame as the author of *Ben-Hur*. Early, whose writings enhanced the standing of Virginia Confederate generals in the war, is best known as the author of the “Lost Cause” rationale for the war’s course and the Southern defeat.

★ JOHNSON AND GILMOR ★

As the Battle of Monocacy unfolded on July 9, 1864, Confederate Gen. Bradley T. Johnson, a Frederick, Maryland, native, and his cavalry brigade were on a raid to free Confederate prisoners in the Union prison camp at Point Lookout. The cavalrymen rode east to Cockeysville, destroying bridges and telegraph lines to disrupt railroad and communication traffic. In Baltimore, Johnson’s approach created chaos, and residents armed themselves.

Johnson detached Towsontown native Maj. Harry Gilmor to destroy more telegraph lines and the Gunpowder railroad bridge. On July 11, Gilmor’s men demolished two trains and part of the bridge, and captured Union Gen. William B. Franklin, who escaped that evening as his guards slept. Gilmor rejoined Johnson on July 14 at Poolesville.

Johnson, meanwhile, had ridden south and burned Gov. Augustus W. Bradford’s Baltimore home, cut telegraph lines, destroyed parts of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, fought Union soldiers, and seized hundreds of mules. Early recalled Johnson on July 12, before he reached Point Lookout to free the Confederate prisoners. He rejoined Early in Silver Spring, and they withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley.



Gen. Bradley T. Johnson

★ McCAUSLAND'S RAID ★

After Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early returned to the Shenandoah Valley, he decided to retaliate for Union Gen. David Hunter's "depredations" there, including the burning of private homes. Early ordered Gens. John McCausland and Bradley T. Johnson to lead their brigades into Pennsylvania, with McCausland in command. Chambersburg, a major rail center for the Cumberland Valley Railroad, was their target. McCausland was to obtain a ransom of \$100,000 in gold or \$500,000 in greenbacks or burn the town.



Gen. John
McCausland

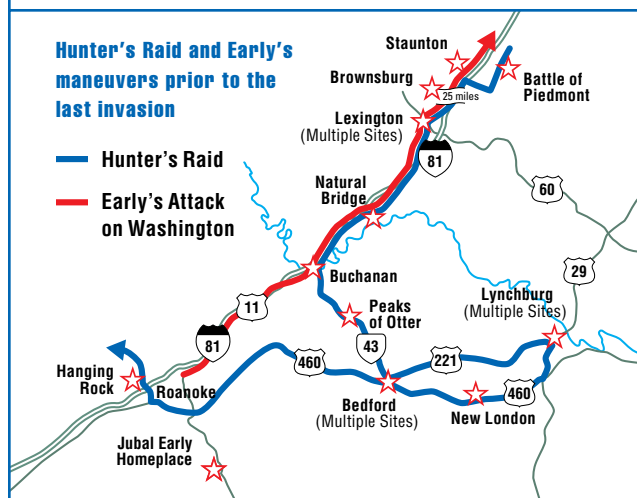
McCausland crossed the Potomac River on July 29 and skirmished with Union cavalry at Clear Spring and Hancock and along the National Road. The next day he entered Chambersburg. When the town failed to give the ransom, his men reduced it to ashes, destroyed 500 buildings, and left 2,000 residents homeless. He then marched west and on July 31 entered Hancock, which McCausland threatened to burn unless a \$30,000 ransom was paid. Johnson protested, almost to the point of mutiny, that the town was pro-Southern. The arrival of Union cavalry spared Hancock as the raiders withdrew to Moorefield, West Virginia, where Union cavalry defeated them on August 7.

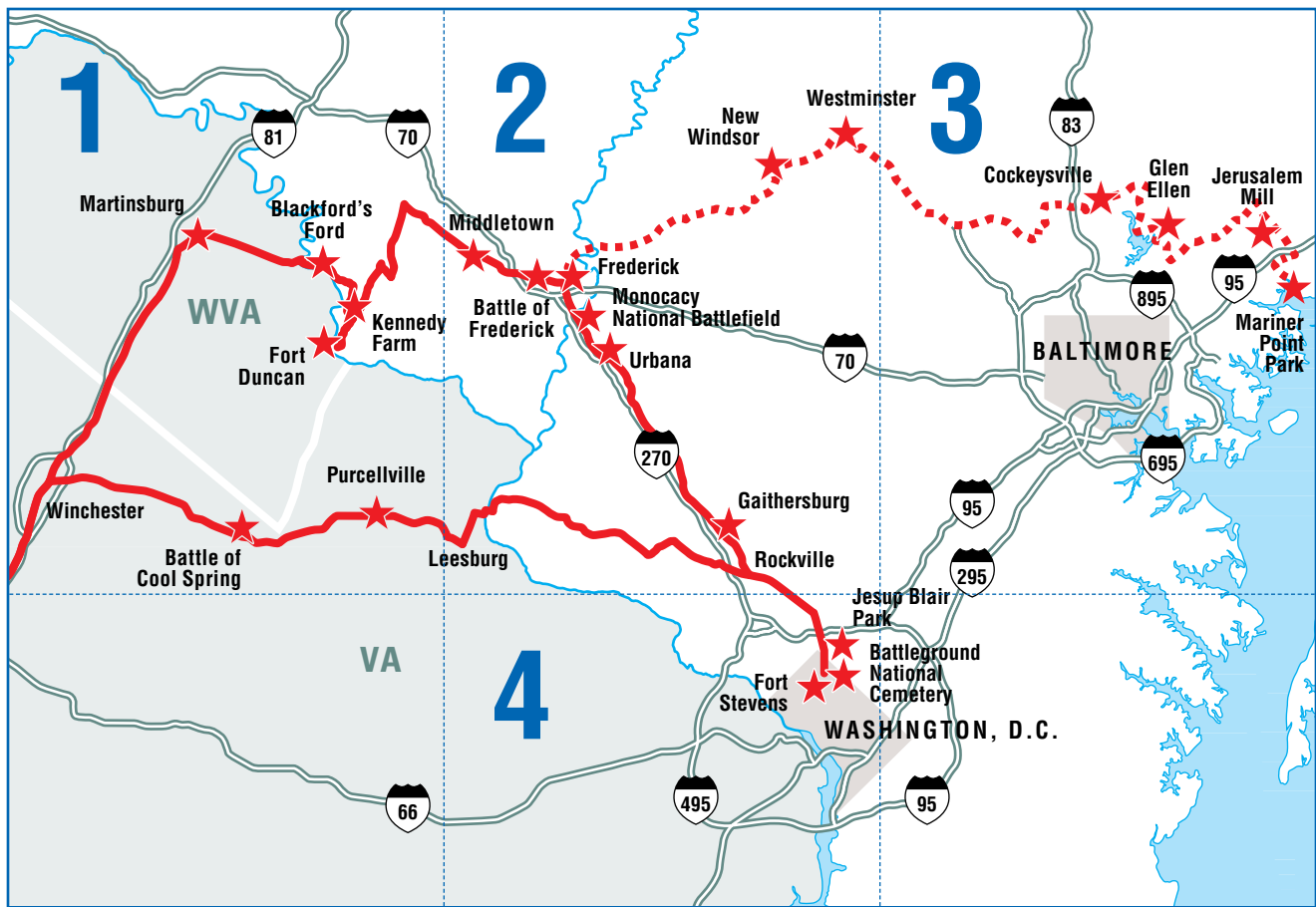
HUNTER'S RAID

Union Gen. David Hunter began marching south through the Shenandoah Valley on May 26, 1864, to drive out Confederate forces, destroy resources, and wreck Lynchburg rail facilities. He defeated Gen. William E. "Grumble" Jones at Piedmont on June 5 and then burned Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, opening the path to Lynchburg, where Hunter's mission ended in failure. An enemy attack on Washington followed.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, meanwhile, fought numerically superior Union forces from the Wilderness south through Spotsylvania Court House to the North Anna River to Cold Harbor near Richmond. He reduced his army by a quarter and ordered Gen. Jubal A. Early's corps to Lynchburg to counter Hunter. There, on June 17–18, Early defeated Hunter and drove him into West Virginia, and then turned north on June 23 and marched down the Shenandoah Valley toward the Federal capital, in the Confederates' last invasion.

Hunter's Raid and Early's maneuvers prior to the last invasion





1864 ATTACK ON WASHINGTON

- ★ **Martinsburg** – Part of General Early's army occupied the town, July 3
- ★ **Blackford's Ford** – Part of Early's army crossed the Potomac River here, July 5
- ★ **Fort Duncan** – Defended Harpers Ferry from Early's threat, July 4–7
- ★ **Kennedy Farm (View of Maryland Heights)** – Early's army passed here, John Brown's 1859 staging point, on July 7
- ★ **Middletown** – On July 7–9, Major Gilmor and General Ransom held the town hostage for a ransom payment
- ★ **Battle of Frederick** – General Wallace delayed General Johnson's advance to Frederick, July 7
- ★ **Frederick (North Market St.)** – A year after the Gettysburg Campaign, Confederates returned here to demand and receive a ransom, July 9
- ★ **Frederick (General Bradley T. Johnson)** – Johnson led troops through his hometown, July 8
- ★ **Monocacy National Battlefield** – Wallace delayed Early's army here, July 9, buying time for Washington, D.C., defenders
- ★ **Urbana** – Union rearguard cavalry action here on July 10 after Monocacy
- ★ **Gaithersburg** – Early's army camped here July 10, before attacking Washington
- ★ **Jesup Blair Park** – The Jesup Blair House, still standing here, is just east of Early's July 11–12 headquarters, where he occupied "Silver Spring," another Blair house
- ★ **Battleground National Cemetery** – Union soldiers killed in Early's attack are buried here
- ★ **Fort Stevens** – From here, President Lincoln observed Early's nearby attack on July 11
- ★ **Purcellville** – Federal cavalry attacked Early's wagon train and recovered some Maryland booty on July 16
- ★ **Battle of Cool Spring** – Early defeated pursuing Federals here on July 18, concluding his campaign
- ★ **New Windsor** – On July 9, Johnson's men looted the town
- ★ **Westminster** – Gilmor held the town for ransom on July 9
- ★ **Capturing Cockeysville** – Gilmor occupied the town on July 10 and burned a Northern Central Railway bridge near here
- ★ **Glen Ellen** – Gilmor visited his parents at his childhood home on July 10
- ★ **Jerusalem Mill** – Gilmor's raiders "requisitioned" clothes here, July 11
- ★ **Mariner Point Park (Gunpowder River)** – Gilmor destroyed trains and railroad bridge here, July 11

McCAUSLAND'S CHAMBERSBURG RAID










(See Map 5)

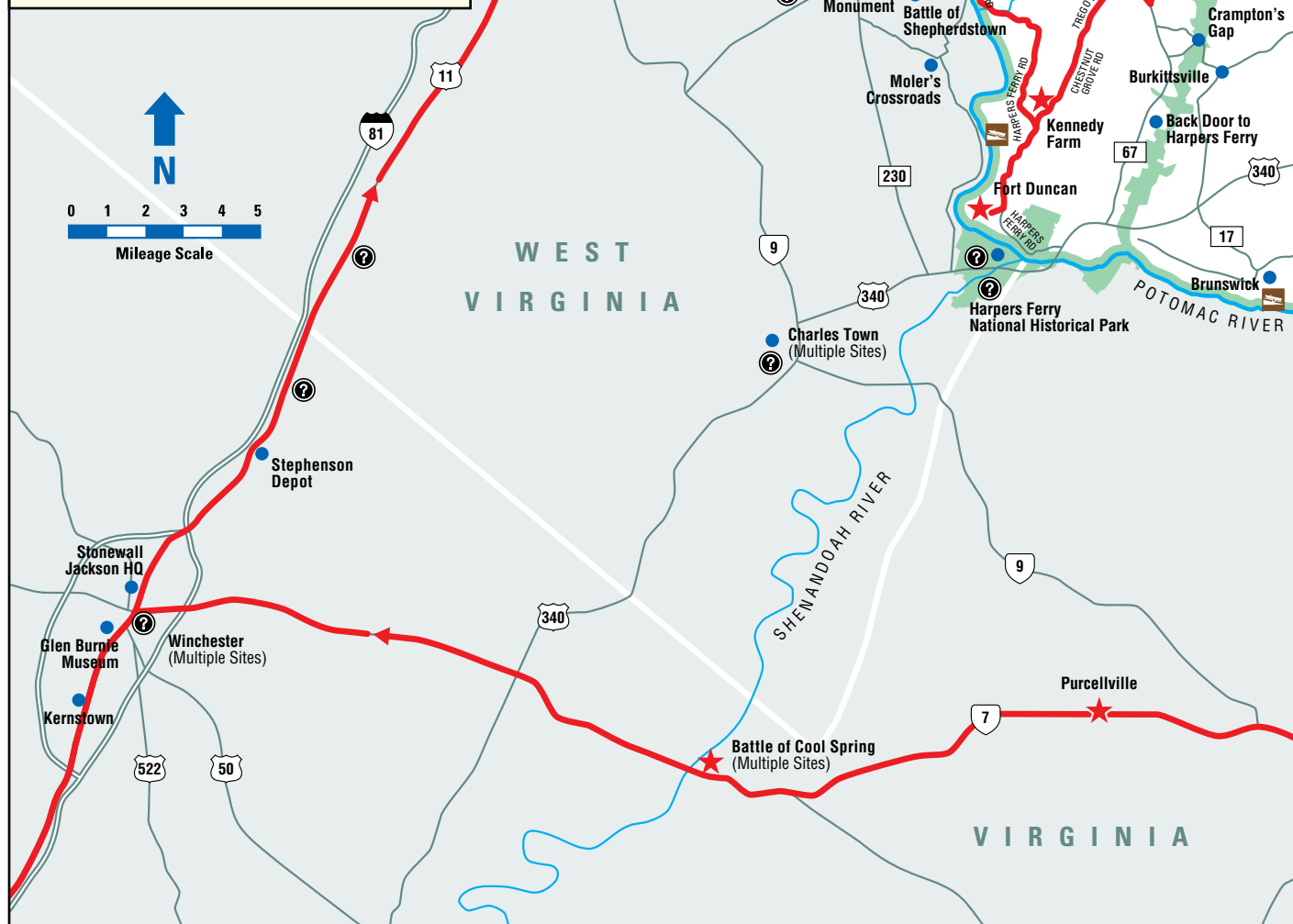
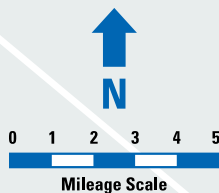
- ☆ **Bevansville** – General McCausland paused here at 3 A.M. on August 1 to rest after riding through Hancock
- ☆ **Folk's Mill** – Federal defenders rebuffed McCausland here on August 1
- ☆ **Oldtown** – Union garrison here surrendered to McCausland after a fight near the B&O Railroad on August 1

1864

ATTACK
ON WASHINGTON ★★★

THE LAST INVASION

-  **1864 Attack on Washington Site**
-  **Other Related 1864 Site**
-  **Route of General Early**
-  **Route of General Johnson and Major Gilmor**
-  **Other Civil War Trails Site**
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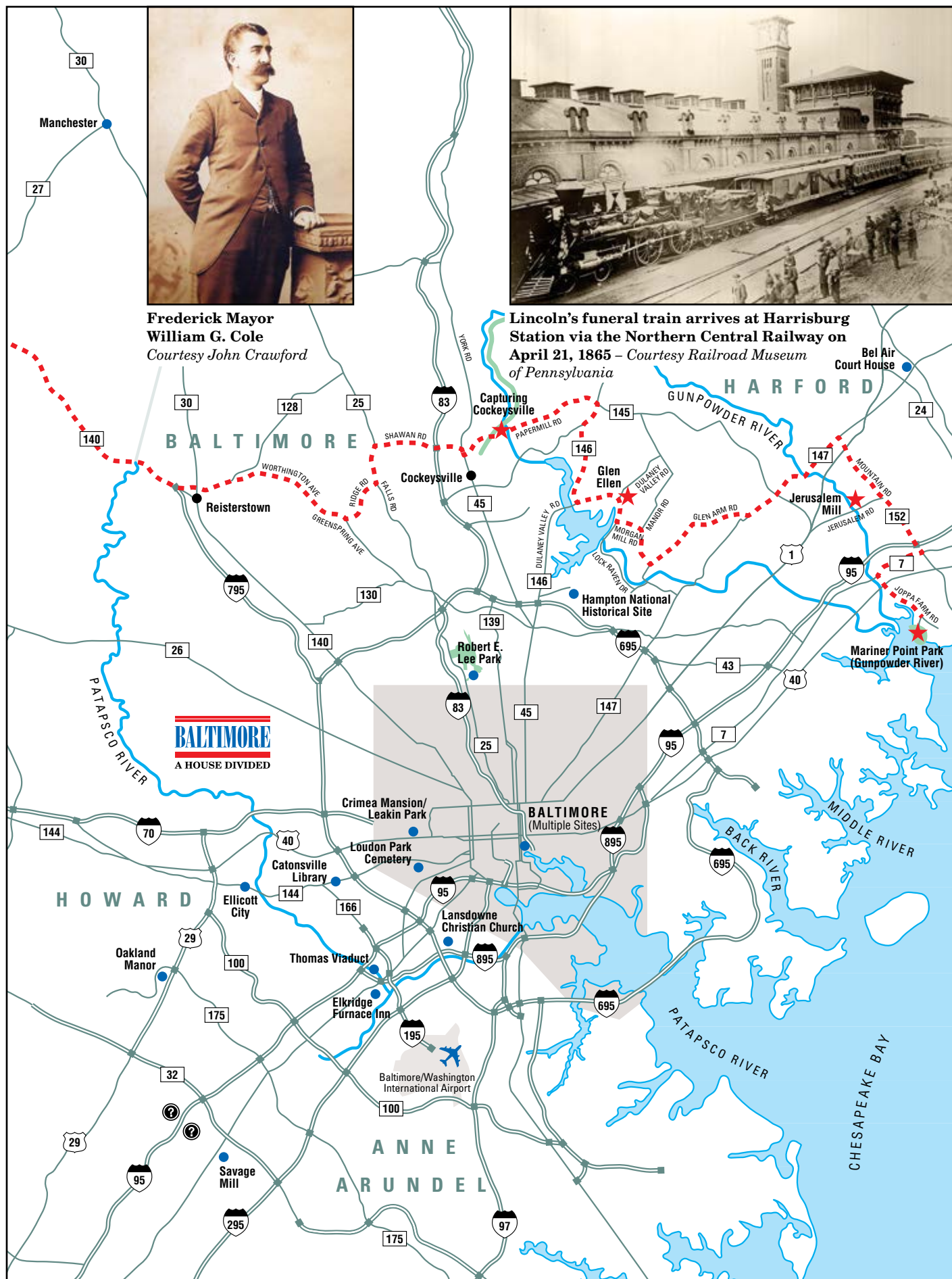




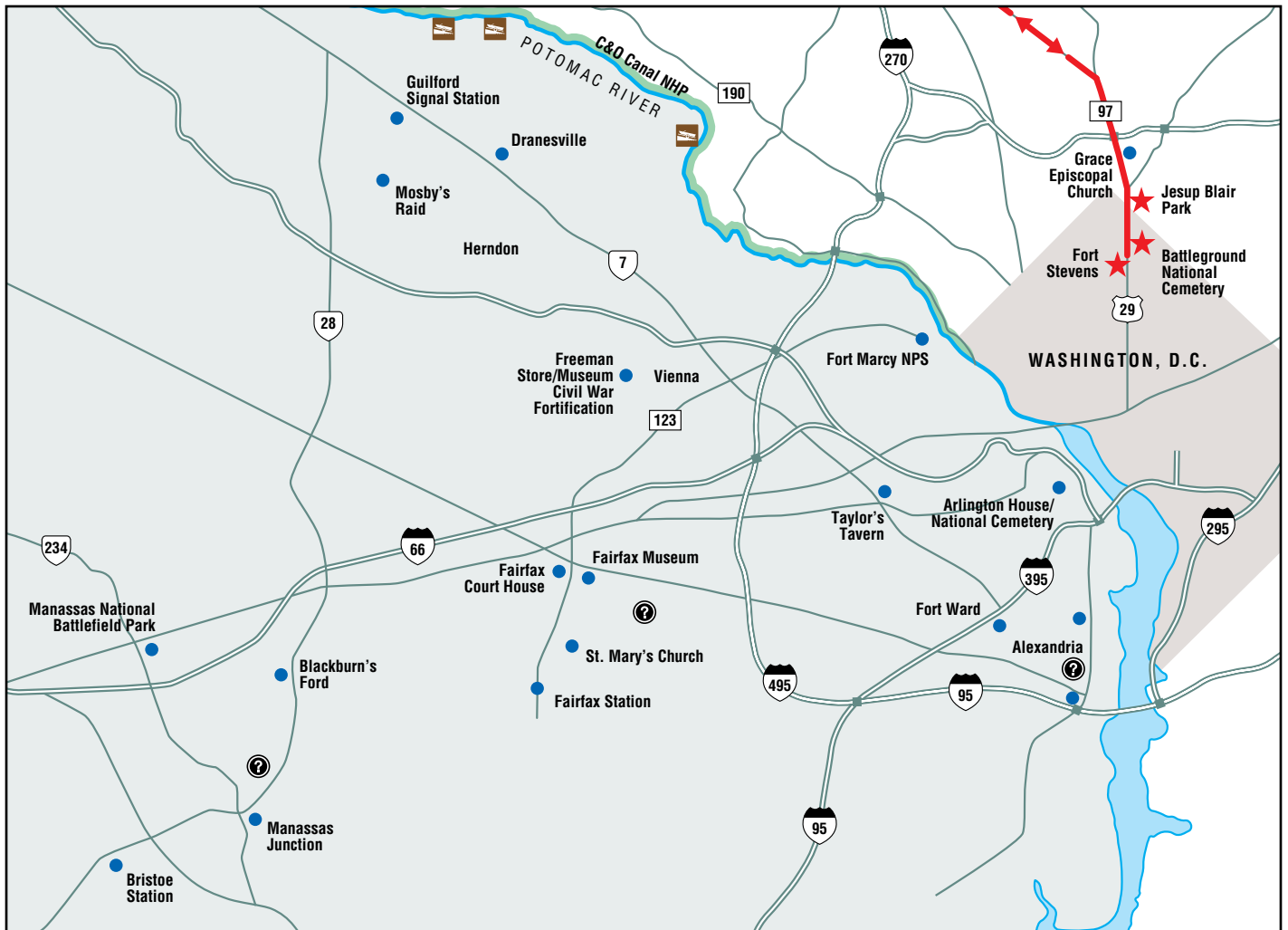
Frederick Mayor
William G. Cole
Courtesy John Crawford



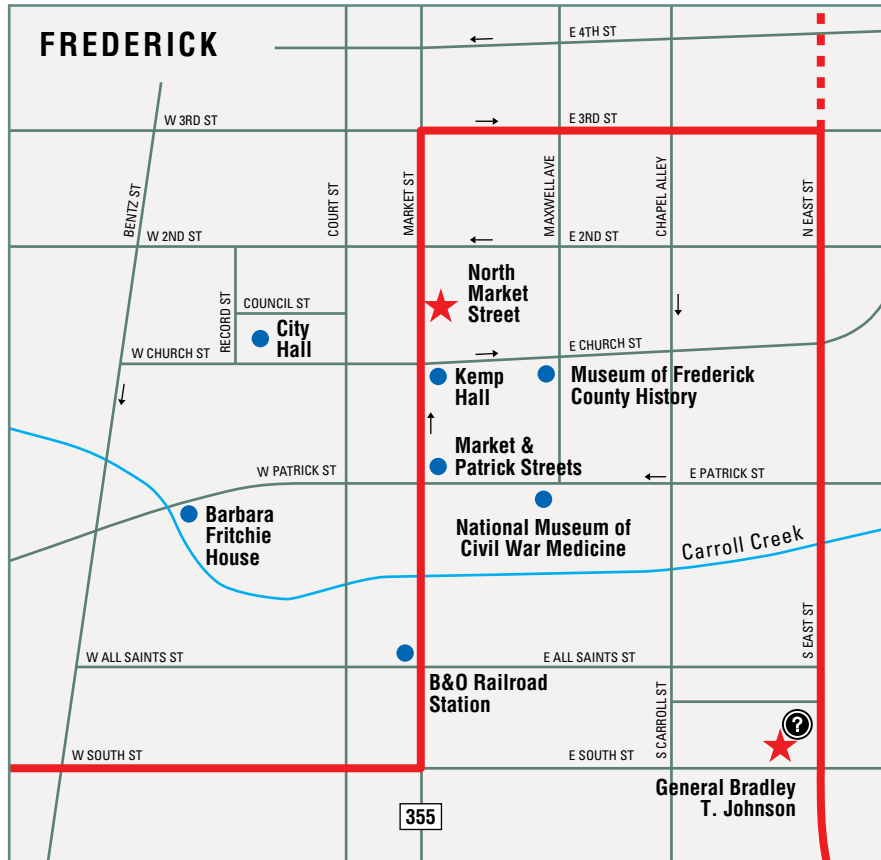
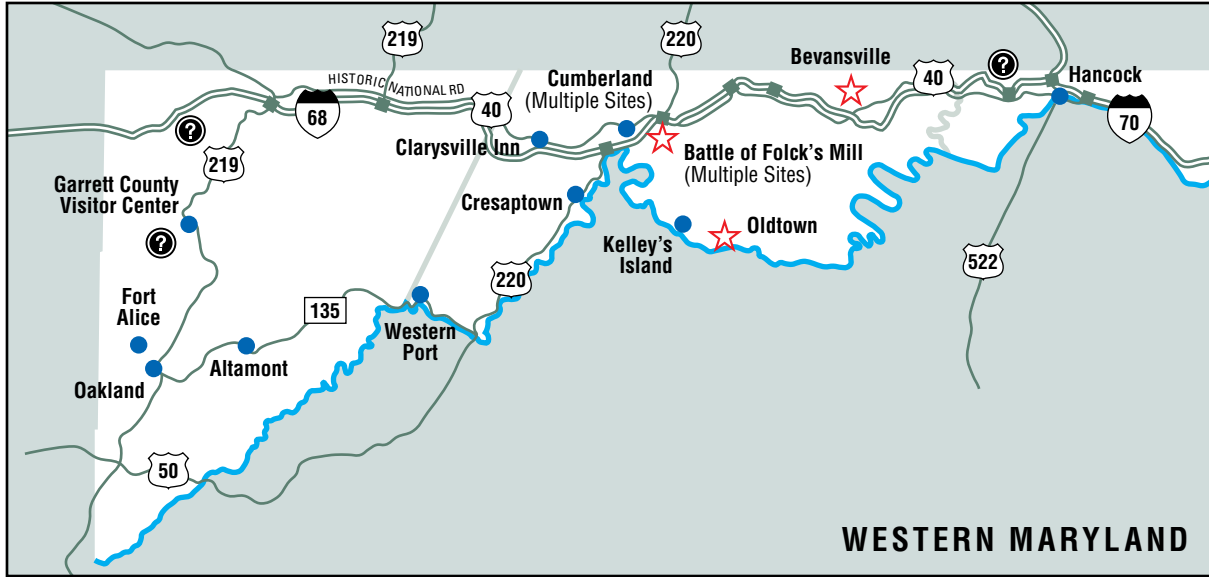
Lincoln's funeral train arrives at Harrisburg Station via the Northern Central Railway on April 21, 1865 – Courtesy Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania



Joins Map 2



Company K, 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, Fort Stevens in Washington, D.C. – Courtesy Library of Congress





TRAVEL RESOURCES



For more information on the Civil War, recreation, and traveling in Maryland, please visit:

Maryland Office of Tourism Development

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14th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
1-877-333-4455
www.visitmaryland.org

Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc.

151 S. East Street
Frederick, MD 21701
1-800-999-3613
www.visitfrederick.org



Downtown Frederick

Hagerstown-Washington County CVB

16 Public Square
Hagerstown, MD 21740
1-301-791-3246
www.marylandmemories.com

Carroll County Office of Tourism

225 N. Center Street
Room 107
Westminster, MD 21157
1-800-272-1933
www.carrollcountytourism.org

Allegany County Tourism

13 Canal Street, Room 306
Cumberland, MD 21502
1-800-425-2067
www.mdmountainside.com

Baltimore County Tourism and Promotion

400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
1-410-887-4289
www.enjoybaltimorecounty.com

Harford County Office of Tourism

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Bel Air, MD 21014
1-410-638-3059
www.harfordmd.com

CVB of Montgomery, MD, Inc.

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Rockville, MD 20850
1-877-789-6904
www.visitmontgomery.com

C&O Canal National Historical Park

Williamsport Visitor Center
205 West Potomac Street
Williamsport, MD 21795
1-301-582-0813
www.nps.gov/choh



Biking on the C&O Canal Towpath

Fort Stevens National Historic Site

c/o Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW
Washington, D.C. 20015
1-202-895-6070
www.nps.gov/cwdw/history/culture/fort-stevens.htm

Gunpowder Falls State Park

4813 Jerusalem Road
Kingsville, MD 21087
1-410 592-2897
<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/gunpowder.aspx>

Hampton National Historic Site

535 Hampton Lane
Towson, MD 21286
1-410-823-1309
www.nps.gov/hamp

Jerusalem Mill, Gunpowder Falls State Park

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
1-304-535-6029
www.nps.gov/hafe

Monocacy National Battlefield

5201 Urbana Pike
Frederick, MD 21704
1-301-662-3515
www.nps.gov/mono

National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
1-301-695-1864
www.CivilWarMed.org

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

540-740-4545
www.shenandoahatwar.org

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Heart of Civil War Heritage Area Exhibit and Visitor Center Historic Newcomer House

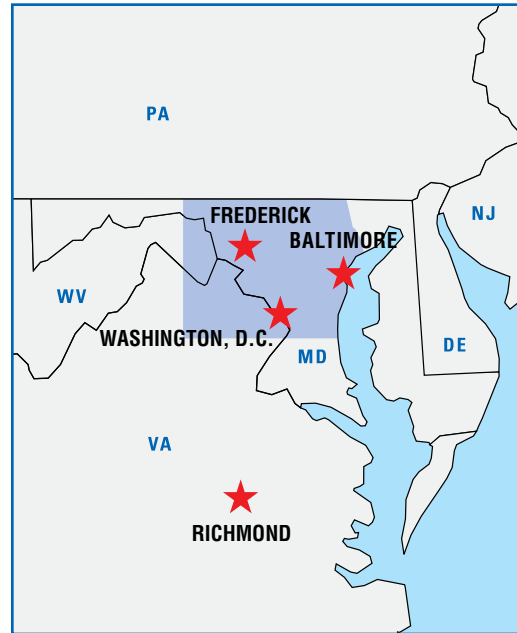
18422 Shepherdstown Pike
Keedysville, MD 21756
1-301-432-6402
www.heartofthecivilwar.org

MONOCACY RIVER

The Monocacy River Valley (Monnockkesey, as the Shawnee called it) was the focus of human activity before and after the Civil War. For centuries, its rolling hillsides and gurgling tributaries offered both Native people and European settlers a prime location to fish, farm, hunt, trade, and settle. During the Civil War, this is where Union Gen. Lew Wallace delayed Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early's advance on Washington in the Battle of Monocacy.

Visitors can now experience the river's natural beauty, tranquility, and history, on the Monocacy Scenic River Water Trail, which follows almost 42 miles of the waterway. Nonmotorized craft like kayaks and canoes have nine access sites. Small fishing boats can use boat ramps when water levels are adequate. The best times to paddle are spring to midsummer and late fall to winter. For water trail information and a map, visit www.recreator.com.

Monocacy Aqueduct



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